
TANLA TALKS

December 2014

The Teachers Association of the Norwalk-La Mirada Area, 11310 Firestone Bl., Norwalk 562.868.6251



President's Message **TANLA President** **Kelley Rush**

"We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Thomas A. Edison

As educators we not only provide *opportunities* for the students and community we serve, but we are given many *opportunities* daily to improve our practice to support the important role we have been entrusted with. You may be interested in some excellent *opportunities* available to you in January.

On January 15th, TANLA will be hosting a workshop, "Bullying in the Workplace". CTA staff, Reena Doyle, will be presenting this workshop, which will provide strategies to help members protect themselves and improve their work environment. On the same day at 5:30 pm, there will be a School Board study session to discuss the implementation of Measure G. If you would like to know the direction the School Board intends to take with the funds from Measure G, please attend and wear your "Caring Beyond the Classroom" t-shirt.

On January 31st, CTA is hosting a Pre-Retirement Workshop. This workshop will help you to begin your long-range plans for retirement. The space for this workshop is limited, so be sure to RSVP with payment of \$15 to the TANLA office ASAP.

I would like to take this *opportunity* to thank you for all you do every day for our students. Our work has never been more exciting, stressful, and challenging. I couldn't be prouder to represent you as your TANLA President.

And lastly, I encourage you all to take the *opportunity* this holiday break to relax and enjoy time with family and friends!

Have a wonderful holiday!

We Are TANLA

Our membership includes 1,000+ educators in NLMUSD. TANLA membership includes **classroom teachers, nurses, speech and language pathologists, counselors, TOSAS, adult school and preschool teachers.** We are all members of the same bargaining unit and play a significant role in educating our students.

Unsung Heroes

Our Adult School teachers are amazing! Our two Adult Schools (Norwalk and La Mirada) serve over 6,000 students, including 600 concurrent HS students in credit recovery. The three major programs at the Adult School level are ESL, Basic Skills, and Career Tech. Ed. The ESL Program focuses on basic language acquisition through life and career skills. The Basic Skills program centers on the elementary and secondary skills needed to receive a HS diploma or GED. Career Tech. Ed. teaches computer programming through direct instruction and a lab setting for further job opportunities and career advancement. There are a variety of other quality classes available to our Adult School students. Following their last WASC, they received a six-year clear accreditation! We want to thank all of our dedicated Adult School teachers. We truly appreciate you the work you do!



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Mark A. Miller

Where does the time go? At last glance we were just starting the new school year and here we are just finishing the first trimester, and just about to take our winter holiday break. We at the Association office know how strenuous the start of the school year has been for many: with the roll-out of the Common Core; new text book adoptions; the Local Control Funding Formula; the Local Control Accountability Plan; not to mention a new Superintendent; pacing guides; materials arriving by the box load without the time for ample training on how to use the new materials; new staff that have been hired as a result of the increased funding, the list just goes on and on. I am often left to wonder how you meet the challenges that we face every day, and yet you do. I am astonished at the work of our teachers, classified employees, administrators and students. It is truly amazing what can be accomplished when we all put our minds to it and push in the same direction. When coupled with the responsibilities each of us face in our personal lives, and the hustle and bustle that the holiday season brings, it is truly remarkable that we are able to meet these challenges, and yet we have, we do, and we will continue to persevere.

We should take pride in our many accomplishments, in our schools and our classrooms. Let us also take pride in our accomplishments as an Association. Through our strength and unity we have been successful in meeting the many challenges we have faced in the past. With renewed commitment and a resounding rigor, let us also commit to standing united to meet the challenges that lie ahead. On behalf of the Executive Board and the Representative Council of the Teachers Association of the Norwalk-La Mirada Area may each of you have a joyous and relaxing holiday season.

Teacher Tip:

Avoiding Teacher Burnout

It has been a challenging start of the school year for many of us. It can be overwhelming getting to know new students, navigating our way through new curriculum and incorporating common core standards. It is easy for a teacher to become stressed out and burned out. This holiday season take a tip from ***Mary Beth Hertz***, a Philadelphia teacher on how to avoid teacher burnout.

Maintain Your "Other" Life- It's OK if teaching is your life as long as you have a life outside of your classroom. You want to be the best teacher you can. You're figuring out lesson planning, grading, managing student behavior, and classroom procedures. You're up until midnight and up at 6:00 a.m. Your weekends are spent grading and planning. This is an easy road to burnout. Go for a short weekend trip, get lunch with an old friend, go to the gym during the week, or go for a bike ride. (Exercise relieves stress!) Spend some time when you are ***not*** thinking about the classroom, and stay connected to your support group of friends and family. We all need to take time to reenergize.

Get to Know Your TANLA

Contract- Our TANLA contract covers a wide range of job-related issues—from wages and health care to working conditions and family leave. You can find our full Master Agreement on the TANLA website: tanlaeducators.com.



December Paychecks

December paychecks will be available on December 23rd. If you have automatic deposit, deposits will be made on December 23rd. If you would like to pick up your paycheck the Business Department will be open from 9 am – 2 pm on the 23rd. All paychecks not picked up will be mailed on the afternoon of the 23rd.

TANLA – Our Members In Action

- As a part of our association goals to strengthen community relationships and community outreach, our 2014 Teacher of the Year **Kathy Jo Gutierrez**



Kathy Jo Gutierrez and 2 of her children Michael and Grace

represented TANLA in the Arturo Sanchez Halloween Parade.
- Our Minority At Large Director **Susan Nielsen**, represented TANLA at the CTA's Joint Caucus on Ethnic Issues.



Susan Nielsen

- TANLA Executive Board members attended the Southeastern Service Center School Board Dinner with NLMUSD School Board members; Ana Valencia, Sean Reagan, Jesse Urquidi, Daryl Adams, and Margarita Rios. Also in attendance were District Leadership, Ginger Shattuck and Wayne Shannon. This dinner provides TANLA with an opportunity for increased communication and strengthened relationships.



TANLA Executive Board Members, School Board members and district leadership



Time Is Running Out On This Special Enrollment Opportunity

If you're a newly hired CTA member this year, you may be eligible for a special, limited-time opportunity to apply for the CTA-endorsed Disability and Life Insurance from The Standard Insurance Company.

If you apply within your first 120 days of your date of hire, eligible CTA members can get up to **\$200,000 of Life Insurance** coverage without answering any health questions.

You can also apply for **Disability Insurance**, which can help with the everyday bills like your mortgage and utilities, expenses that continue even when you can't work. The CTA-endorsed Disability Insurance plan was specially designed to address the gaps in coverage that many California educators face.

Remember, you only have 120 days to apply for this unique opportunity. Don't miss out!

Bully Prevention Resources- October was National Bullying Prevention Month, and there's a cornucopia of resources educators can use year around. Log onto www.nea.org/bullyfree, where you can link to:

- NEA's popular *Bullying Prevention Kit*
- The PBS streaming of the movie, **Bully**, which is highly recommended by NEA
- Actor and rap artist Tray Chaney's inspiring video on bullying prevention
- *All Kids Deserve to Be Safe from Bully: Jake's Story*—an article on how Minnesota's new bullying prevention law is making a difference
- A research-based blog on preventing the bullying of our most bullied student group—students with disabilities—*Create a Safe and Caring Climate for Students with Disabilities and You Shall Be Rewarded*

Also, on this site you will find the proceedings of the *NEA Bully Free School Climate Conference*, where you can access the PowerPoint presentations of some of the nation's leading experts on school climate and bullying prevention.



Great Public Schools for Every Child

Great Things Are Happening in Our Schools...

-**DD Johnston teachers** participated in Mc Teacher night serving up cookies, apple pies and working behind the scenes. Thank you to McDonalds for being a community partner.

-**DD Johnston** hosted their 1st Annual Monster Mash Party. The fun included ice-cream sundaes, a live DJ and a costume contest. The event sold over 250 tickets and the 5th grade team raffled off gift baskets. All raffle money from the baskets will go toward classroom funds.

- **Gardenhill teachers** hosted Family Math Night. Congratulations to **Hilda Bracamontes-Cólon**, a Ramona Preschool teacher. She was selected for LACOE Head Start's first ever Golden Apple Award for exemplary preschool teachers.

- Congratulations to **Mary Mangold**, 3rd grade teacher at Glazier Elementary, she has been re-elected to the Westminster School Board for a third term.

- **Kathi Lundstrom** 5th grade teacher from Escalona Elementary recently earned her doctorate. Congratulations **Dr. Lundstrom**.



TANLA 5K Fundraiser

The TANLA Executive Board is considering planning a 5k fundraiser this spring. The proceeds from this event would go toward our "Caring Beyond the Classroom" event in August. At this time we are looking for volunteers who would like to help plan this event. If you are interested in volunteering for the planning committee please contact the TANLA office Ext. 7029 or 7030.

CALIFORNIA
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



- CTA offers several different educational scholarships to members and their dependents. Listed below are the major CTA scholarships. TANLA has had several members and their dependents benefit from these scholarships. For more information please visit: <http://www.cta.org/scholarships> .
 - CTA Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Education Awards Program
Deadline: January 9, 2015
 - CTA Scholarship for Dependent Children
Deadline: February 6, 2015
 - Del A. Weber Scholarship for Dependent Children Attending Continuation High School/Alternative Programs
Deadline: February 6, 2015
 - CTA Scholarships for Members
Deadline: February 6, 2015
 - L. Gordon Bittle Memorial Scholarship for Student CTA (SCTA)
Deadline: February 6, 2015
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Deadline: February 20, 2015

Communication

- Stay in touch with TANLA to get the latest updates and information.

Visit our TANLA website. Go to Tanlaeducators.com

EMAIL- Contact TANLA with your personal email address and receive emails on information.

Join the **TANLA Phone Tree-** Contact TANLA with your home or cell phone number and receive messages on important information and reminders.

TANLA President Kelley Rush is on **Twitter**. You can follow her @tanlapres for updates and news on TANLA, district, and education issues.



Members can friend us on Facebook. Look for **TanlaEducators**. Please use this forum to ask questions, address concerns and/or comment.